



# American Animal Hospital, P.C.

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## OUR VIEWS ON CANINE AND FELINE VACCINATIONS

By vaccinating dogs and cats we save countless lives and avoid many serious illnesses. In the last 25 years, veterinary vaccines significantly reduced the incidence of common Canine Distemper. However, current research has generated new information regarding canine vaccination protocols. It has been found that yearly vaccination for Canine Distemper, Parvo Virus, and other combined components may not be necessary to provide adequate immunity against these diseases. The same holds true for the Feline Distemper combination. Furthermore, it is speculated that excessive vaccinations in adult dogs and cats may "tip the immune system over the edge" and thus make pets more prone to skin conditions, allergies, tumors (in cats) and some immune mediated diseases.

At American Animal Hospital we strive to provide the best possible health care by staying on the cutting edge of veterinary medicine. If your pet has been vaccinated annually, we recommend blood testing adult patients for vaccinal titers. When we instituted this practice in 1996, it went against the recommendations of pharmaceutical companies. However, as of today, those same companies have aggressively set up task forces to change their vaccine components and to adopt new recommendations for vaccine protocols. We especially test patients who are at high risk of acquiring immune mediated diseases. If the titers demonstrate adequate protection, we do not recommend re-vaccinating at that time.

For dogs, vaccinal protection against other factors found in the combined Canine Distemper vaccine, such as Para influenza virus, Hepatitis virus, and Corona virus are assumed to be adequate if the Distemper vaccine titer is within acceptable ranges. In addition, our hospital does not recommend or require vaccination against Leptospirosis, as this bacterin vaccine has a relatively higher risk of side effects. As for cats, if the Feline Panleukopenia titer is adequate we consider the protection level adequate for Calici virus and the Rhinotracheitis virus. In lieu of vaccine certificates, we issue vaccinal titer certificates.

The duration of protection against these diseases will be considered one year from the vaccinal testing date. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to phone our office.

We will continue to adhere to and require Federal and State Rabies vaccine protocols.

*Dr. Brian T. Voynick and the Staff at the American Animal Hospital*